

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
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R 081335Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1432
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWTR, ETRD, TU
SUBJ: TURKISH ECONOMIC CONTACTS WITH BALKAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

1. TURKISH PRESS TODAY (APRIL 7) NOTES SEVERAL VISITS, MAINLY
ON ECONOMIC AND TRADE MATTERS, SCHEDULED TO BALKAN COMMUNIST
COUNTRIES IN NEAR FUTURE. THESE CONTACTS REFLECT CONTINUING
SLOW BUT STEADY GROWTH IN TREND OF TURKISH ECONOMIC RELATIONS
WITH EASTERN EUROPE.

2. PRESS REPORTS THAT GROUP OF TURKISH PALIAMENTARIANS WILL
VISIT ROMANIA BEGINNING APRIL 8. SOME TWO WEEKS LATER, ON
APRIL 25, ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER MANIA MANESCU WILL ARRIVE
IN ANKARA FOR TALKS MAINLY ON ECONOMIC SUBJECTS. THESE WILL
REPORTEDLY COVER AMONG OTHER THINGS TURKISH INTEREST IN PURCHASE
FROM ROMANIA OF FERTILIZER, DRILLINGS RIG, TRACTORS AND SPARE
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PARTS FOR LOCOMOTIVES. TURKISH PRESIDENT KORUTURK WILL THEN
VISIT ROMANIA ON JULY 3.

3. ON APRIL 24 TURKISH MINISTER OF COMMERCE TEOMAN KOPRULULER
IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT SOFIA TO SIGN A WIDE-RANGING ECONOMIC
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE JOINT CONSTRUCTION OF
A DAM ON THE RIVER TUNCA, WHICH WILL BE DESIGNED MAINLY FOR

IRRIGATION IN THRACIAN REGIONS, ALSO WILL BE DISCUSSED.

4. FINALLY, YUGOSLAVIA APPARENTLY WILL SUPPLY TURKEY CREDITS TO BUILD FOUR FERRY BOATS WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF \$40 MILLION. AN AGREEMENT TO THAT EFFECT HAS JUST BEEN SIGNED IN YUGOSLAVIA BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TURKISH MARITIME BANK, NAZIH NEYZI.

5. COMMENT. THOUGH THESE VISITS ARE LARGELY WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE, THEY ARE INDICATIVE OF CONTINUING TURKISH EFFORTS TO MAKE GREATER USE OF AN EASTERN OPTION IN THE FACE OF PERSISTING HARD CURRENCY DIFFICULTIES. ROMANIANS, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE BEEN QUICK TO FILL TURKISH NEEDS FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF DRILLING EQUIPMENT, MENTIONED IN CURRENT REPORTS AND FORMERLY A VIRTUAL MONOPOLY OF US SUPPLIERS, AS US FIRMS WITHHOLD SHIPMENTS BECAUSE OF TURKISH PAYMENTS DELINQUENCIES.
SPIERS

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